

# Mendel Peterson

P. O. BOX 6083

COMMUNITY BRANCH STATION

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22306

PHONE CODE 703 780-2139

CONSULTANT IN MATTERS RELATING TO UNDERWATER EXPLORATION  
IDENTIFICATION AND APPRAISAL OF  
MATERIALS RECOVERED FROM UNDERWATER SITES  
TREASURE TROVE  
COINS OF ALL PERIODS  
LECTURES

October 2, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Eric,

I am sending you by insured mail a pillar dollar, 1732 with the MF assayers mark. This is the one with the most encrustation of those I have. As I told you I accepted 3 1733 MX and 2 1732 dollars from Mr. Fisher in return for a debt to me for travel expenses, appraisal fees and a Roman gold ring Ca. 1000 AD which I had traded him. He is into me for about 2500-3000. No matter what the final outcome of the matter I have lost. In any case it will be fun to investigate this to the end. I have written Mel I have withdrawn my first opinion the coins were genuine and will withhold any further opinion until we all can come to some definite conclusion.

The following external evidence applies:

1. I saw 110 coins in one lot which had encrustations which varied from the light encrustation on the specimen I am sending (naturally I picked the best I saw) to coins which appeared to have lost almost half of their silver, it having been converted to silver sulphide. I saw several clumps of coins stuck together and two I cleaned showed the impression of the design of their fellows very clearly. Some of the coins showed iron stains.
2. Other sites of the 1733 fleet have yielded specimens of the coinage but I did not have a clear specimen of these authentic pieces to compare to the Fisher coins.
3. Mr. Fisher stated that the coins came from a site outside Florida waters and showed me a letter purportedly applying to this site in which the state of Florida said they had no interest in the site since it was in international waters.

Several questions present themselves in this riddle:

1. Why would counterfeiters prepare such fine dies in the details of the insignia and then engrave the letters of such different style?
2. Why would they produce such a large number of coins since this would preclude any substantial price being maintained in a flooded market?  
( please see next page )

3. Can they indeed produce such a genuine looking enervation in an electrolytic bath?
4. Are we to assume we know everything there is to know about the first milled issue of coins from the Mexico City Mint?
5. Have we really seen enough of the undoubtedly genuine pieces to state without doubt that this style of lettering is false?
6. How can one believe the Spanish, who were very intelligent people, would establish a mint at great expense, equipped with the latest in machines and expect to furnish all the punches, hubs etc from Spain?
7. The communication time between Spain and Mexico was 6 months to a year for a round trip. Would not the Spanish have furnished an engraver to the mint and not taken the chance of a crippling accident which might have closed down operations because of a high rate of broken dies or punches?

The coins are of the correct weight and slightly larger in diameter than the later pillar dollars which could account for the shallow striking which they display. The big question is the style of the lettering with the little notch at the base and tops. I have seen this exact style on early silver plates from the Mexico City mint recovered from a ship of the 1553-4 fleet which wrecked on the Texas coast but nowhere else. The vertical lines on the edge seem to indicate the coins were struck in a collar, a technique known in Europe many years before. Later dollars show no vertical lines I can see and must have been edged with the type of machine shown in Diderot's plates on minting. Are we so knowledgeable about the machines and operations of the first years of operation of the mechanized Mexico City mint we can say without doubt they did not use a collar at anytime?

Next month I will be in Florida again and will get to see an undoubted specimen of the 1733MX recovered from the wreck of the St. Joseph of the 1733 fleet. I will take one of mine and compare the lettering under a good glass to see if I can learn anything. Meanwhile you have the specimen I send to play with. I want it back eventually of course and if we finally conclude the pieces are false will deposit them in the reference collections of the Smithsonian and Hoskin's office.

You will be amused by the latest scuttlebutt about the source of these pieces. A friend of mine in Florida is quoting a commercial pilot who flies to Tokyo as having seen these coins on sale there at bargain prices and that that they are being made there. Of course, the pilot probably doesn't know one pillar dollar from another and may be seeing genuine pieces from the Chinese trade. I told you of the other rumor—a great lot of these was discovered off Cadiz being salvaged treasure from the 1733 Fleet which was lost when the salvage ship sank upon reaching Spain.

Meanwhile, back in the fudge factory, we will try to duplicate the enervation on some silver coins by reversing the cleaning process. Best wishes, and please pardon my stuttering typewriter, like my heart, it skips a beat now and then.

Cordially,  
  
 Mendel Peterson

Copy to: Mr. Hoskins  
 Randolph Zander

# Mendel Peterson

P. O. BOX 6083

COMMUNITY BRANCH STATION

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22306

PHONE CODE 703 780-2139

CONSULTANT IN MATTERS RELATING TO UNDERWATER EXPLORATION  
IDENTIFICATION AND APPRAISAL OF:  
MATERIALS RECOVERED FROM UNDERWATER SITES  
TREASURE TROVE  
COINS OF ALL PERIODS  
LECTURES

10/3/73

Dear Eric,

I left out one of the primary facts about the lot of pillar dollars when I wrote you yesterday.

The lot I saw 116 pieces broke down about as follows:

1732 F -----50 pieces      1732 MF'-----4 or 5 pieces  
1733 MX MF -----50 pieces      1733 MX F -----6 or so pieces.

Why would counterfeiters go to the pains of producing these varieties? How would they know of the 1732 MF variety which isnt even mentioned in most references?

Of course it could be pointed out that the 1733 MX should not appear with the F mark if the 1732 appeared with the MF mark. The answer to this could very well be that near the end of the coinage of the 1732 the second assayer Manuel de la Pena joined Francisco de la Pena Flores and his initial was added to one or two dies. Then when the coinage for 1733 with the apparently short-lived MX mark was struck early in the year a reverse die with only F on it was combined with the 1733 MX obverse until the error was discovered or the die broke giving us the rare 1733 pieces with the F mark only.

Best wishes,  
*Mendel*  
Mendel Peterson

October 3, 1973

Mr. Melvin Fisher  
Treasure Salvors  
Margaret Street  
Key West, Florida

Dear Mel,

So many questions have been raised about the 1732 and 1733 pillar dollars by people who are expert in the field I am now convinced much further study is needed before a final conclusion can be made. The pieces might very well be false and I completely wrong in giving the opinion to you that they are genuine. I have not yet had an unquestioned original of the years 1732 and 1733 to compare with the specimens I got from you but the plates I have show a variation in the lettering which is disturbing. I agree that the people expressing opinions have been going only on the evidence of the coins and are not familiar with the numbers found or their physical condition, there are other pieces of external evidence which should be discussed and the question is far from simple. I am doing a further study of the pieces and also will try to set up a bath to artificially age other silver pieces. Meanwhile I must withdraw my opinion of the genuineness of the pieces until we complete our studies and experiments. Please do not quote me further on this. It also appears now that my first opinion of the gold bars was correct. I was able to convince myself they could be genuine and part of a Royal remittance not requiring individual assaying. Now I believe they are false. We are running further analyses on samples and this may show something.

I am sorry for my apparent vacillations on the subject but the questions are complex and I was hasty.

Sincerely,  
Wm. de C.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 8, 1973

Mr. Mendel Peterson  
P. O. Box 6083  
Community Branch Station  
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mendel:

Thank you for your letters of October 2 and 3, 1973, with enclosures. I am glad that you have withdrawn your original opinion on the genuineness of the pillar dollars until you are satisfied.

You sent me a 1732 Mexico MF with substantial black encrustation and some cleaned area. It appears to be identical to Lot 666 in the Schulman sale of September 20, 1973. Lots 666, 667 and 668 are illustrated in the Schulman catalogue and are said to be from a new wreck of the Florida coast. From checking with others as to genuineness, I believe the "new wreck" is a Freudian slip.

You wrote Fisher that you have learned from several of those very knowledgeable in the field that they feel that the pieces are questionable. You probably have heard opinions that the pieces are false. I have. You wrote that you feel the gold bars are false, and you told me that they were, according to your informant, from the same wreck. The wreck is not specifically located.

I can clear up a couple of specific problems you raise. The notches on the letters are customarily caused by failure of the metal to flow into the recesses of the dies due to outward expansion of the planchet during striking. When this curvature is cut into the die then it is copy work from a struck coin. That appears to be the case as to the coin sent.

As to the collars, you can be sure the pillar dollars were milled by the casting machine, not struck in a collar. You couldn't get the coin out of the collar if it were struck in a collar unless the collar was pieced. An inspection shows the collar is not pieced. Mass production from segmented collars was then impossible.

There is no reason to try to figure out why devilment is done these days. It just is a common practice for profit. You see that the Schulman catalog values the 1732 MF at \$9000 to \$10,000 and others in four figures.

I would like to keep the 1732 MF in our forgery collection. You don't seem to want it if it is bad. You have others. If it ever turns out to be good it will be returned. It is available to ANACS, etc. in any event. Is that satisfactory with you?

Mr. Mendel Peterson

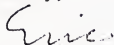
October 8, 1973

Page 2 -

I plan to send a copy of this letter to Charles Hoskins and Randy Zander, as you did yours, unless you prefer otherwise.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric".

Eric P. Newman


EPN:jah

CERTIFICATE

This will certify that I have examined a lot of 116 pillar dollars of the following description:

- 8 - 1732 MO mint mark, assayer's initials MF
  - 30 - 1732 MO mint mark, assayer's initial F
  - 3 - 1733 MX mint mark, assayer's initial F
  - 60 - 1733 MX mint mark, assayer's initials MF
- 15 coins encrusted in a clump which are believed to be 1733 MX mint mark, assayer's initials MF

It is my studied opinion that all of these coins are authentic originals from the Mexico City mint. My opinion is based on the state of corrosion that they display which I believe cannot be duplicated in a laboratory and in the fineness of the die work which is identical to specimens illustrated in the standard references such as Jose de Yriarte Oliva and Leopaldo Lopez - Chaves Sanchez, Catalogo De Los Reales De A Ocho Espanales. I am assured that a scientific laboratory determination indicates a specific gravity of these coins to be identical to that of other authentic originals from other sources.

  
Mendel L. Peterson  
Director of Underwater Exploration Pro  
Smithsonian Institution (retired)

August 14, 1973, Key West, Florida



23  
July  
1974

SYNOPSIS: Mel Fisher's doubtful pieces of eight, dated 1732 and 1733...

After voluntarily giving up sale of "investment contracts", Fisher exhibited coins incl. a 1732 eight reales with assayer "MF" unknown earlier than 1733. Coin was denounced as fake by noted Spanish colonial authority Clyde Hubbard and Virgil Hancock...withdrawn from show.

September 1973, Hans M.F. Schulman had an "MF" type in a sale, estimated at \$10,000. Withdrawn.

November 1973, Fisher gave two to Bob Page of Satellite Beach, formerly with Real Eight and their museum. Page investigated the pieces, believed them fake.

Houston, Tex. dealer George Vogt got "several dozen", sent two to Virgil Hancock, who had two metallurgists make independent study. Both reportedly stated that the pieces bore a fine, sandpaper like surface unlike any other marine recoveries, had been "chemically aged" to resemble centuries of marine immersion.

ANACS agrees, George Hoskins emphatically stated his concurrence in chemical aging.

Mendel Peterson certified the coins as genuine on 14 August 1973, argued their genuineness to Eric Newman October 2, began hedging to Fisher October 3, and reversed his stand fully in a letter to Fisher on that date.



August 20, 1990



**Heritage  
Capital  
Corporation**

Heritage Plaza  
Highland Park Village  
Dallas, Texas 75205-2788  
Phone: 214-528-3500  
Toll Free WATS: 1-800-872-6467  
Telex 704298

DALLAS

PARIS

DUSSELDORF

SWITZERLAND

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is to confirm our conversation of Saturday, August 18, 1990, in which we discussed the Hatchell case and my request for information. You directed that I submit my request in writing.

As you have been informed, Mr. Hatchell submitted to Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc., two (2) "coins" for possible auction. He did not know whether the coins were authentic, but identified them as a 1783 Nova Constellatio 1,000 silver mark and a 1776 "W.M." New Hampshire copper.

Upon receipt at Heritage the coins were examined and were quickly determined to be replicas without numismatic value. The "coins" were returned to Mr. Hatchell by U.S. mail. Hatchell claims that the coins were not redelivered. He now asserts in a lawsuit filed in South Carolina Federal Court against Heritage that the coins were authentic and Heritage should be liable for the value thereof.

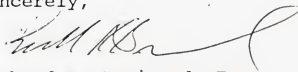
At some time prior to his submission of these "coins" to Heritage, he made rubbings of them. I have not seen the original paper rubbings, but I have in my possession photographs of them. It is my believe that, comparing these rubbings to the Garrett coin sold to John Ford, there are sufficient characteristics that establish that the rubbings are not of the Garrett piece.

I am enclosing a photograph of the rubbing and a black and white photocopy of the Garrett piece for your review. The Garrett catalogue has a photograph of the Nova.

Mr. Eric Newman  
August 20, 1990  
Page 2

At the A.N.A. I would like the opportunity to meet with you to show you the photographs of the rubbings, photographs of Ford's coin, and provide you with replicas that I have obtained of the two pieces so that you may evaluate and form an opinion as to whether the rubbings could be of an authentic coin. I would also like to discuss the history of the Nova and its status as its being unique, and thereafter discuss possible value of the "coins." If you have any replicas that may provide additional light on this matter or any other thoughts that can help me identify the validity of the Plaintiff's claim as to authenticity and value, I would appreciate it. Further, if you have similar information on the W.M. copper, that would be of similar help.

Sincerely,

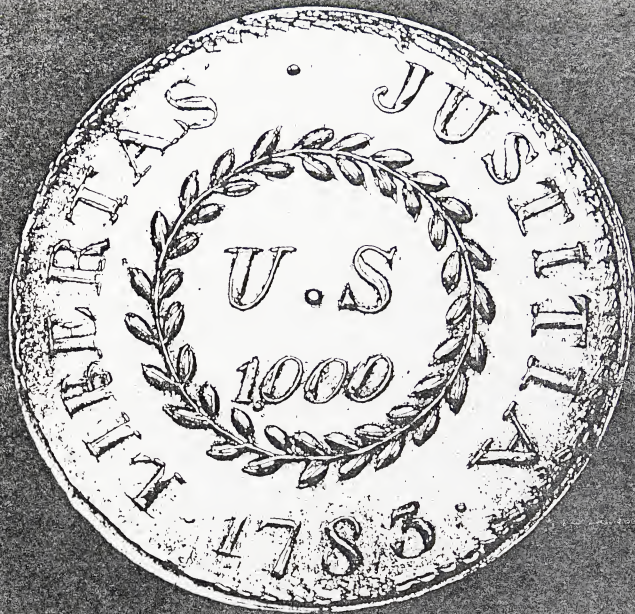
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard K. Brainerd', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

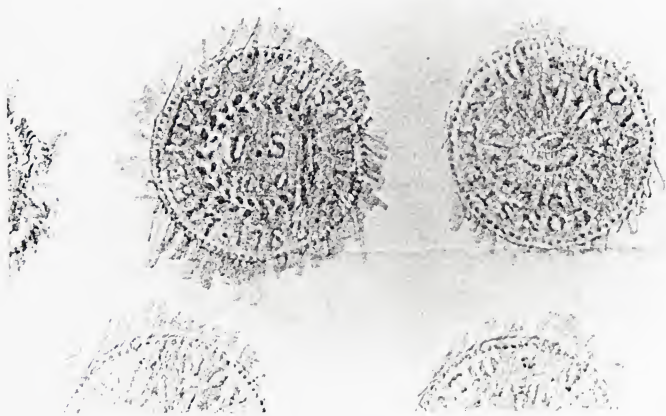
Richard K. Brainerd, Esq.

vkp

Enclosures

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS airbill #7266459756





ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 22, 1990

Mr. Mark Van Winkle  
Heritage Rare Coin Galleries  
Heritage Plaza  
Highland Park Village  
Dallas, TX 75205-2788

Dear Mr. Van Winkle:

Thank you for sending me four issues of LEGACY. I am appreciative of your request to arrange for an interview with me for LEGACY, but after further consideration, I have determined to decline for the present.

If you wish to suggest reading material to your LEGACY readers, you might refer them to:

T.V. Buttrey, "False Mexican Colonial Gold Bars," *Memorias de la Academia Mexicana de Estudios Numismaticos*, Vol.III, No. 9 (1973-1974), pp. 21-42.

Edgar H. Adams, "Private Gold Coinage of California," *American Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. XLVI, No.2 (April 1912), pp. 64-66; Reprinted in *Private Gold Coinage of California* (New York 1913) pp. 104-106.

Paul E. Garland vs. Thomas Ryan, 1969 records of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Municipal Dept., First Division, No.69-M1-120329.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman  
President

EPN:bv

c: Steve Ivy  
James I. Halperin



# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

---

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

April 29, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

On the subject of Haseltine I note in my *ANA Centennial History*, page 385, an obituary notice stating that his widow was a daughter of the late William Idler. Thus, Idler was Haseltine's father-in-law. Where this leaves Nagy I don't know.

All good wishes from here.

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

Enclosure



## BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

August 9, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

I am enclosing herewith a Xerox copy of page 18-19 of the Charles White Collection, Part II, April 15, 1887, sold by H.P. Smith. White was the cashier of a bank in Northampton (presumably located in New York City—I haven't checked—although there is a Northampton, Massachusetts; White was identified as being from New York City in the catalogue) and had some items that will be mentioned in my hoard book—I only have some scattered notes and haven't yet put them together. Anyway, I thought you would find Lots 436, 437, and 438 to be interesting, representing as they do Hub dies. The date of Lot 436 is wrong, of course, and implies that no date was on the steel hub—for, as you know, certain of these *dies* were dated 1851 and 1852. Others (early 1851) had no date. Presumably, the hub must have been for the design elements only and not the lettering. Anyway, I thought you'd find this interesting.

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm

Enclosure: Xerox



- 12,418 1866 Copper 3 Cents, also '69 3 and 5 Cents in Nickel; good  
3 pcs.  
5,419 1873 White Metal Trade Dollar: regular issue: *only one  
ever offered*; proof  
10,420 1874 Bronze Cent: regular type: incused reverse; uncirc.  
2,500 421 1877 Copper Fifty Dollars: large head of Liberty 1, by  
Barber: 13 stars surrounding. B similar to Double Eagle  
but enlarged: FIFTY DOLLARS below: fine broad planchet  
(size 32); fine proof. A prominent Philadelphia dealer  
recently had one of these and held it at \$300, which alone  
will give an idea of the great rarity of this remarkable  
piece: this fact, however, has not influenced the owner to  
place any limit whatever on the piece, which will be sold  
on its merits solely; *first and only one ever offered*  
4,204 422 1878 Goloid Metric Dollar. B composition described within  
a circle of stars: very few of these pieces struck: desirable;  
brilliant proof  
12,500 423 1878 Silver Dollars. The Morgan accepted and the Barber  
rejected designs: single specimens have sold as high as \$19;  
in the Warner sale the pair brought \$35; brilliant proofs  
2 pcs.  
1,200 424 1878 Copper Dollar: the Morgan design. B 3 leaves on  
end of a stick in eagle's claw: desirable; brilliant proof  
4,045 1879 Lead Goloid Metric Dollars; one trifle bruised on edge,  
otherwise fine 2 pcs.  
4,204 426 1880 Copper Goloid Metric Dollar, the large size: this must  
not be confounded with the common issues of 1879: *first  
ever offered*: desirable specimen; brilliant proof  
427 1880 Copper Goloid Metric Dollar, the smaller size: remarks  
relating to preceding lot apply to this also: *first offered*;  
brilliant proof  
1,604 428 1881 Copper 5-Cent piece: the first pattern for the present  
issue of nickels; proof  
4,500 429 1881 Nickel 5-Cent piece: large stars: the same design as  
present issue without Cents; proof  
2,000 430 1881 Nickel 5-Cent piece: similar but small stars and motto  
over head: very desirable; brilliant proof  
2,000 431 1882 Copper 5-Cent piece: legend in place of stars; bril-  
liant proof

- 2,904 432 1883 Copper 5-Cent piece, like first V issue 1883, with addi-  
tion label inscribed Cents across V; brilliant proof  
4,204 433 1884 Nickel Cent: Eastman Johnson's design: perforated  
centre; brilliant proof  
10,000 434 1885 Copper Dollar, same as the regular issue, with the  
exception that the edge has 13 stars and E PLURIBUS UNUM:  
only copy ever sold was in the *Dr. Morris* sale, brought  
\$15; very desirable and brilliant proof  
4,000 435 1861 Silver Cent of the Confederate States of America:  
issue limited: die broken: has sold as high as \$12: desir-  
able; brilliant proof  
2,200 436 Original steel Hub die, for California octagonal \$50 gold  
piece (1850): eagle on a rock, with upraised wings, long  
ribbon in beak: shield, arrows, olive branch in talons; per-  
fect  
1,000 437 — Hub die for pattern \$10 (or a Half Dol.): head in circle  
of stars; unfinished  
2,100 438 — Hub die for small bust of Franklin; perfect

# ASSAY MEDALS OF U. S. MINT.

*All Bronze (except 2) and perfect.*

- 6,043 1861 Bust of Liberty r. by *L'aguet*. B in wreath ANNUAL |  
ASSAY | 1861; 21  
2,100 440 1869 Liberty seated l: 13 stars. B LET US HAVE PEACE, ON  
oak and olive wreath: aluminum; 21  
50 441 1869 Similar, but without stars: differently engraved: alumi-  
num; 21  
5,000 442 1873 Archimedes rests against a mantel beside a fountain.  
B Eckfeldt's tomb in cypress wreath; 21  
6,000 443 1874 Same type. B Torrey's tomb; 21  
3,000 444 1876 Bust of Washington r. by *Barber*. B YEAR ONE HUN-  
DRED | OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, etc.: very desirable;  
21  
1,500 445 1877 Same obv. as 442. B ANNUAL | ASSAY | 1877 in olive  
and oak wreath; 21  
9 446 1878 Same obv. as 444. B inscrip. in olive wreath; 21  
1,000 447 1879 Bust of Dr. Lindermer r. by *Barber*: NA. 1825, OR. 1879.  
B female mourning at tomb of Joseph Henry; 24

8/13/98

(Telephone to <sup>ANA</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>Colorado Springs</sup>)

Called J. P. Martin, authenticator for ANA until he got into a slapping business on 9/1/98, and asked if he was at the Ford talk at the ANA theatre in Portland on 8/7/98. He said he was not there. He said that on the previous day 8/6/98 Don Kagin invited him to be at a meeting to discuss the 1853 USA 06 \$20 pieces but was advised by Ed Rochette (Acting ANA director) and ANA counsel not to attend. Rick Montgomery of PCGS was also invited but could not go because of extensive business work and sent John Dannreuther in his place. (Dannreuther is known as JD and is Director of Numismatic Research for PCGS, is an expert grader and researcher, owns part of PCGS, Tel 901-683-2492, 868 Mt. Moriah, Suite 202, Memphis TN 38117). Martin said PCGS had rejected 1853 USA 06 \$20 pieces previously as "counterfeit" and that ANACS had done the same as not genuine and not proofs. I asked if he knew what took place at the meeting and he said he would call Dannreuther and ask if he would call me or if I could call him. He said he knew Ford, Holder and Kagin were also to be at the meeting and perhaps others.

Martin called back and said he spoke to Dannreuther and that I could call him or he would call me tomorrow.

SPN



KENNETH BRESSETT  
Post Office Box 60145  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80960

June 29, 1998

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

Thanks for your letter. The material that you keep finding on California gold is fantastic. I will put this in the "hold", file with other similar things. When you get here in a couple of weeks, we can talk about it.

I have no objection to removing the J.J. Conway \$5 variety without numeral 5 on the reverse. If JJF considers it bad, it must be really bad! It always seemed like a strange coin to me, but I have no evidence one way or another.

Bert told me that you called the other day when I was out. I appreciate the kind things you said about the Peace program. It looks as if this will really happen if Secretary Rubin goes along with his committee's recommendation. We will see when he gets back from China, and has time for such trivial things.

I think we are all set for the Summer Seminar. Uta will be here from the ANS (at my invitation), and things will run ok even without an Executive Director. The attendance will be larger than ever. It's hot and dry here just now. We are all looking forward to a grand affair.

Peace,

Ken Bressett

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Ed Milas  
FROM: Ken Bressett  
DATE: July 31, 1998

You asked for my opinion about the J. H. Bowie \$5.00 gold piece as listed in the 1999 Edition of *A Guide Book of United States Coins*.

As you realize, very little is known about this man or any of the private coins that he may have made. The most lengthy account of his activities appears in the book *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States* by Donald Kagin.

The \$1.00 J. H. Bowie pattern in copper has been known to numismatists for many years and is generally accepted as being a contemporary trial piece. The existence of the \$5.00 piece was not published until relatively recent times. It was first included in the Guide Book in the 1991 Edition. Prior to that it had been shown in Taxay's Encyclopedia since 1971. It is believed that only two specimens exist.

It is my opinion that the nature of this coin is not yet fully known, and therefore is in need of further study and explanation. My reason for this centers on the fact that the specimen I studied (in 1983 as I recall) seemed to have been manufactured on equipment that was different than that used for making other contemporary private gold coins. I found that the impression was sharper and bolder, with the rim in much higher relief than other coins of that period.

I further observed that the style and fabric was different than that of the \$1.00 copper pattern of the same company. Both of those coins should have been made at the same time, and in my opinion should be of similar style. I perceived that the style of the \$5.00 piece was similar in appearance to some of the restrike pieces that have been attributed to Stephen K. Nagy, and allegedly made in the period 1908-1912.

It is my opinion that the \$5.00 Bowie piece was never issued as a coin for circulation. The known examples could have been made as trial pieces for a coinage that never occurred, or may have been struck from contemporary, or reconstructed dies, at a later date. It is for these reasons that I have questioned the authenticity of these pieces as contemporary coins.

*Stack 12/2/97 #1381 "Reportedly found"*

## LOVELY 4 ESCUDOS OF CHARLES II



Lot No. 1380

- 1380 MEXICO. Charles II, 1665-1700. 4 Escudos, n.d. Arms. Rv. Cross. Cob type. 13.52 grams. Fr.3. Handsome rich orange gold tone. A few minor edge splits which occurred at the time of striking. Choice Very Fine. (3,000-4,000)

## MEXICO MINT 50 ESCUDOS-WEIGHT BULLION BAR



Lot No. 1381

- 1381 Philip V, 1705-1746. Bullion Ingot of 50 Escudos Weight, 1746. Small rounded-end rectangular 88.2 x 21mm Gold ingot or bullion bar of 22 Quilates (Carats) Fineness. The upper surface bears a rather faint crowned Arms flanked by relief serif-style lettering HISP ET ID, a variation of the standard abbreviation HISP ET IND for 'King of the Spains and the Indies, the Old and New Worlds'. The reverse bears several die-stamps, including a circular stamp with cross potent dividing castles. V and MF. There are two Mexico City Mo mintmarks. Roman numeral XXII for 22 quilates. PHS for PHILIPPVS V, a small Mutese cross and date 1746. Weight: 2,608.90 grains = 160.053 grams = 6.25 Onzas = 94.0610 Adarmes = 36.7426 Castellanos = 50 Escudos. This would have been a convenient shipment weight closely matching the Lilly Collection ingot of the same weight now in the Smithsonian Institution. This piece contains 154.976 grams or 2,391.49 grains of pure gold. The appearance is typical of cast Gold, a fascinating glitter alternating with frosty matte surface. One of five 1746-dates examples known. Very Fine. (2,000-3,000)

*Ex Gibson Collection / Stack's, November 1974, lot 271.*

About 39 ingots of this general type are known, reportedly found on or near Florida's east coast in the mid-1950's. Some researchers theorize that the bars represented part of the "King's Fifth" or Quinto de la Corona, the uniform tax levied on all precious metal mined and refined in the New World. The famed Lilly Collection contains about nine examples of differing weight and date, others have appeared in auctions in Britain and the U.S. over the decades.

## MAJESTIC MEXICAN 8 ESCUDOS OF 1804



Lot No. 1382

- 1382 Charles IV, 1788-1808. 8 Escudos, 1804 Mo TH. Armored bust r. Rv. Crowned Arms. Fr.43. KM 159. Full frosty golden mint lustre and meticulous strike make this an exceptionally appealing example. Brilliant Uncirculated, nearly choice. PCGS MS62. (2,750-3,500)

Portland OR 8/6/98 Numismatic Theatre of ANA 4PM

Subject of Talk: "American Western Assay Ingots" by John J Ford  
Phoenix AZ — 1

Printed Brochure states "Numismatists' lack of familiarity with the series is due to the pieces' rarity and the resultant lack of ~~familiarity~~ research and writing on the subject." Also states "Ford has specialized in the series for over 40 years and strongly encourages questions and comments - provocative and otherwise."

The talk was not illustrated with any slides, though the speaker referred to and read from items he brought to the speaker's table.

Ford opened the program by saying that this would be a repeat of the talk he gave the day before at the meeting of the American Pioneer Gold Society, but that questions from the audience would be added.

There was a long explanation as to what an assay ingot was and why it was issued. They were all supposed to be melted up in due course. Assay ingots were in three collections of others ~~\*, \*~~, and Newcomer, all of which ~~he~~ said he had mentions of.

He said he sold to Don Kiefer of Chicago in 1953(?) for \$1500 a \$20 Parsons bar (?) and said he wished he had not sold it and that Kiefer was the sloppiest man, married a Chinese woman, and <sup>he</sup> was earning a living as an abortionist. ~~He~~ said he bought the item from Paul Franklin in 1952 (or 1953) when Franklin came to the New Netherlands Coin Co office and sold it to Ford for \$225. Ford ~~the~~ asked Franklin for more. Franklin had been in the army and met a friend there who was the source of stuff <sup>(ingots)</sup> in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas etc. He went to junk shops to find items for Franklin. Franklin ~~sold them to Ford etc.~~ Ford asked Mehl for ingots which Mehl had accumulated in a box. At the 1953 ANA meeting Franklin tells Ford much information. Mehl sold his box of ingots at ANA in 1949 to men sitting in the room and there were advertisements in the 1949 Numismatist at the back describing some pieces (I am not sure exactly what Ford said as it was confusing for me).

Ford described a group of circulators he and Franklin issued to buy ingots etc.

Ford described an Idaho #324 Wythee ingot dated 1866 with US Int Rev Stamp .973 parts gold, .021 parts silver, .006 parts adulterant which he got from Wayne Raymond and sold to Kiefer of Chicago for \$1500.

(cont)



Ford lecture 8/6/98

(2)

Ford then said Don Owens of California read all the early California newspapers, <sup>directories</sup> & magazines as to data on California coins and assayers, taking 6 1/2 years to do so and has produced a 550 page manuscript which was sent to Dave Bowers and that Stacks and Bowers would publish the book next year. Ford wants Owens to do the same for Idaho, Nevada etc.

The talk lasted for one hour and then questions were asked. Art Kagin said he had an 1852 Sacramento directory listing pioneer names and Ford connected it to 1853 and said it was a reprint. Someone asked if Franklin was still living and Ford answered that Franklin was 80 years old, that his wife died and his son was in an auto accident, that Ford had no contact with him for a while. No mention as to where Franklin lived or otherwise was made.

There were about 35 to 40 in the audience including Michael Hodder, Ute Wartenberg, Arlene Jacobs, Rob Ritz, Art Kagin and others I knew but cannot specify for sure as I didn't pay <sup>much</sup> attention to the people who were there.

END

P.S. I have not detailed comments<sup>n</sup> as to the Central America, Lilly Collection, Pioneer coins, etc as they were generally known matters. I hope someone recorded the talk.

\* These were well known names and could have been Printer, Harrett, Mitchellson, Lilly, Ben Green, Keefe or someone else.



Portland 8/1/98

Kayen Table  
Pair of \$50 Kellogg Dies 1855  
Poorly condition. Gold flakes in dies

Litter with  
dies

Harry Cutler  
814 <sup>1st</sup> Street  
San Francisco, Calif

August 2, 1943

Elizabeth S. Elder  
Brimrose Road  
Burlingame, Calif

Dear Mrs Elder

The ~~150~~ Kellogg Fifty Dollars <sup>dies</sup> ~~one~~ dated 1855  
which I am negotiating <sup>and</sup> on your own private property,  
have been left you by your father  
Senator T. W. H. Shanahan of Shasta County, Calif  
who was Supr of the Mint at San Francisco during  
both terms of <sup>Pres</sup> Woodrow Wilson

I am to pay you \$150 for these dies on the  
following terms. \$150 on this date and the balance  
~~when~~ after the dies are pronounced genuine by the  
Amer Numis Soc on or before Sept 22, 1943.

(Not an exact copy - only a quick  
scribble)

Harry Cutler

Certificate on next page  
of letter  
etc

Examined dies  
Circular Stern of dies about 2" long  
Rumor indicates Kayen paid  
over \$100,000 for dies in 1928.

Notes made by  
E. P. N. at  
Kayen bureau  
table.

8/13/98

(Telephone to <sup>ANA</sup>~~to~~ Colo Springs)

Called J. P. Martin, authenticator for ANA until he goes into a slabbing business on 9/1/98, and asked if he was at the Ford talk at the ANA theatre in Portland on 8/17/98. He said he was not there. He said that on the previous day 8/6/98 Don Kagin invited him to be at a meeting to discuss the 1853 USA06 \$20 pieces but was advised by Ed Rochette (Acting ANA director) and ANA counsel not to attend. Rich Montgomery of PCGS was also invited but could not go because of extensive business work and sent John Dannreuther in his place. (Dannreuther is known as JD and is Director of Numismatic Research for PCGS, is an expert grader and researcher, owns part of PCGS, Tel 901-683-2492, 868 Mt. Moriah, Suite 202, Memphis TN 38117). Martin said PCGS had rejected 1853 USA06 \$20 pieces previously as "counterfeit" and that ANACS had done the same as not genuine and not proofs. I asked if he knew what took place at the meeting and he said he would call Dannreuther and ask if he would call me or if I could call him. He said he knew Ford, Hodder and Kagin were also to be at the meeting and perhaps others.

Martin called back and said he spoke to Dannreuther and that I could call him or he would call me tomorrow.

SPN

8/14/98 11 AM

(1)

Called John Dannreuther (J.D.) <sup>in Memphis</sup> and asked if he was willing to talk to me about what <sup>occurred</sup> at the 8/6/98 meeting on the 1853 US Assay Office \$20 matter and he said he would be glad to. He told me that only Ford, Hodder, Don Kagin and himself were at the meeting which discussed the pros and cons of the 1853 \$20 USADG <sup>proof pieces</sup> being genuine, reatures, counterfeits, etc. J.D. went into the meeting satisfied 99% that <sup>the</sup> pieces were modern counterfeits, possibly from original hubs or transfers. After the meeting he spoke to Ford for an hour. <sup>The original</sup> meeting and later discussion involved matrices, transfer dies, hubs, die cracks, defects, proofing, etc. A dent on the branch in the eagle's claw is vertical and was claimed by Ford to come from a matrix or damage to hub. J.D. said that Martin had <sup>told J.D. that Martin felt otherwise.</sup> J.D. said he could not be positive but it was very strange. J.D. also raised Martin's position that a die crack doesn't disappear as would be the case if the proofs were genuine but Ford said it should go away by <sup>continued</sup> striking. Ford Hodder & Kagin were arguing genuineness and J.D. the opposite at the meeting but J.D. said Kagin wanted them to be genuine and was not sure. J.D. learned that Ford has a complete card file on every Pioneer piece he ever handled or saw <sup>as well as</sup> had an inventory of collections.

I asked if J.D. was at the Numismatic Theatre and he said yes. I asked who was there and he said he remembered only a few of them like Art Kagin, David Hange, Hodder. I asked about the Sacramento City Directory which Kagin mentioned and J.D. said it looked good to him in spite of Ford's remarks that it was a reprint. I then asked if he remembered who asked the question about whether Franklin was around and J.D. said that it was he. He then said he learned that Franklin lives in NY and Ford said he had no contact with him for a year or so. I asked if J.D. knew the sources of the various coins & ingots and he said that Franklin would not yield the sources according to Ford in order to protect his sources from being topped. J.D. said that his copy of the PNG <sup>paper</sup> <sup>hearing</sup> from the 1960s had the names of the sources blanked out.

He added that he had a copy of <sup>Don</sup> Kagin's questions and answers prepared for the <sup>8/14/98</sup> private meeting and read some to me. Don Kagin gave them to him. I asked if he would send me a copy and he said he would ask Don, so I withdrew the suggestion. I asked if he knew when Nagy's name was first mentioned in connection with restriking pieces and he said that he knew - Nagy was related to Mint people and Nagy sold 1849 \$50 coins to Woodson for \$10,000 each and there was an article about 1910 about the

## Dannaeuther (cont)

(2)

Treasury dept taking them back and melting them. Perhaps he read it in Bruen also. He said Nagy restuck the Mass & Cal pieces and that Chapman restuck Beattlers.

He mentioned the unusually sharp reeding on the USAOG prooflikes and said they were too well formed to be made in mid 19th century. I told him that this was brought out in the PNG hearings of 30 years ago as well as the unusual number of reeds found on the prooflike pieces. He said the theory that the dies of these pieces were returned to Phila mint because they were government property and used in 1858 to make proof restrikes as part of the proof distribution by the Mint - was not very logical to him. This was the wrong order for proofs to be made.

He told me he had written a book on grading and counterfeits and would send it to me. We agreed we would talk again if anything of mutual interest came up.

*SD*

\* J.D. said the dent is not on the choice #10 USAOG pieces he has seen and that only the prooflikes have it. I said I was not familiar with this situation.

P.S. I asked if Ford had said at the Ford table that Ford met Franklin for the first time at the New Netherlands office when Franklin offered a pioneer piece for sale there, and J.D. said that was correct.

Eric -

15. August 1998

Look at these two lots.

2 analyses done at Harvard

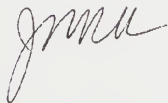
March 1997

May 21, 1998

Note 1997 description - fineness in bar 807  
fineness as determined by tests 750

Note that bit about Humbert bending backward not  
to defraud clients is within quotation marks.

Best,



(Don't work on this until Monday, since you  
have a busy weekend.)

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 19, 1998

Mr. Lawrence J. Lee  
Durham Western Heritage Museum  
801 South 10th Street  
Omaha, NE 68108-3299

**RE: J.J. Conway**

Dear Larry:

Thank you for the nice remarks about the ANA Summer Conference class. The teachers learned as much as the students.

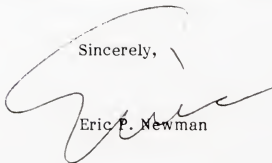
As to your J.J. Conway project, I enclose copies of correspondence from John J. Ford, Jr. to me dated October 26, 1962 and November 6, 1962, and my intermediate reply dated October 30, 1962. I believe these will be of great interest to you. You will note the statement "Bashlow has unearthed an obverse die."

As to your July 26, 1998 draft of "A Historiographic Review of the J.J. Conway Mint," I want to talk to you about it. It may be too critical. Is there a way you can have an existing example of the coin nondestructively tested? Then you might have something important to add.

I am sorry you were unable to be in Portland as it was delightful for many of us.

My best,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

JOHN J. FORD, JR.

*Numismatist*

178 HENDRICKSON AVE.

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L.I., N.Y.

June 17, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
400 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

The Bradbeer manuscript arrived back today, and while I have not opened the package, I assume that it is all there.

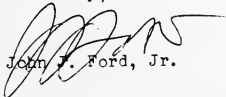
I did not give your name to Mr. Milton B. Smith, but only forwarded his letter to Mrs. Raymond to you, as a courtesy. All I hope to get out of it, is to eventually find out what a Sola Bill is!

My good friend, Mr. Paul Franklin of Scottsdale, Arizona, told me that he had a bona-fide cash offer of \$25,000.00 for my CSA half dollar, subject to the piece being in the condition Franklin described it, and of course authentic. Paul made this offer, in Chicago, in person to me, April last, and since I obtained the coin from him, wanted a 20% commission if I decided to sell.

I told Paul, that the coin was not for sale at any price, as I might be many things, but I did not consider myself a prostitute.

Very best personal regards.

Sincerely,



John J. Ford, Jr.

JJF:dn



James L. Halperin  
Co-Chairman of the Board



## Heritage Capital Corporation

Heritage Plaza  
Highland Park Village  
Dallas, Texas 75205-2788 USA  
Phone: 214-528-3500  
Toll Free WATS: 800-872-6467  
Telex: 704298  
FAX: 214-520-6968

Dallas  
Texas USA

Paris  
France

Dusseldorf  
West Germany

Erlbourg  
Switzerland

Zug  
Switzerland

August 29, 1990

Eric P. Newman  
President  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic  
Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

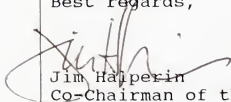
It was good seeing you in Seattle last week. Thank you for copying me on your August 22 letter to Mark Van Winkle.

I'm of course disappointed that we aren't going to be interviewing you in Legacy. I've heard you're a great interview! Furthermore, I'd like to read your side of the story on the John Ford episode, although I can certainly understand your wish not to stir up a controversy. I think most everyone who reads Legacy will realize that this story has two sides, and so far we've only heard Mr. Ford's.

My partner, Steve Ivy, was once on the other side of a controversy with John Ford, so we both know how elusive the truth can be at times where Mr. Ford is involved. He sure makes interesting reading though.

Please let us know if you change your mind.

Best regards,

  
Jim Halperin  
Co-Chairman of the Board

JLH/jmd

cc: Mark Van Winkle

## Old & New Ingot Discoveries

### Tonopah Times - Bonanza Times, Friday, July 15, 1955 Fails to Locate Bar in Tonopah

Pursuing a hobby he has followed for many years, Paul Franklin spent some time in Tonopah this week searching without avail for a bar. Reason for his lack of success stems from the fact that what he seeks are old assay bars, regarded as rare collector's items back East.

Franklin, an electronics specialist from Long Island, N.Y. displayed several assay bars he has acquired in the past from California and one from Virginia City, Nevada, stamped by a Chinese assayer.

Another bar is pure gold, the residue of an assay made in San Francisco in 1851. Valued at that time at \$54.33 (the amount being stamped on the bar) it now commands about \$800 as a collector's item, Franklin said.

Franklin came to this region at the suggestion of Charles Diehl, whom old timers will recall as an assayer in Goldfield from 1907 to 1910. Now in his 80's, Diehl resides in Phoenix, Arizona, and is still active as an assayer.

Accompanying Franklin here were his young son, Paul, and a fellow worker from Long Island, Clem Martins.

### New Ingot Discoveries

Handwritten assay bar stamp:

NO 761  
VAN WYCK & CO  
ASSAYERS  
VIRGINIA N.T.  
14.40 ozs  
GOLD \$ 2.08  
SILV \$ 18.13  
\$ 20.21

Vertical text on left: SILV 974 FINE  
Vertical text on right: GOLD 007 FINE

Monumental Mine  
Ingot No. 271  
Grant Co. Oregon  
18.31 oz  
Fine 736 Sil  
Fine 18 Gol  

---

24.23

*Barack & Brothers  
1978*

...creating a number of patterns that could accurately create dies from larger models created by artists and engravers. Prior to the invention of the reduction lathe, engravers cut designs directly on the faces of steel dies.

An Englishman, C.J. Hill, improved the reduction lathe and in 1868 the U.S. Mint began using "the Hill." Augustus Saint-Gaudens recommended an update in the early 20th century to the Janvier transfer reduction lathe. Although the Janvier has undergone refinement and new models put into use over the years, the basic technology from more than 200 years ago hasn't changed. The dies that produced all U.S. coins in circulation today trace their being to the Janvier lathe.

It is not surprising that U.S. Mint officials would be seeking newer and better ways of making coins. In fact, it is encouraging that the world's largest producer of coins is investigating new technologies. As taxpayers and ultimate shareholders in the government's money-manufacturing operations, we should insist that such is an ongoing process.

Mint officials report they are experimenting with a computerized numerical control type of engraving system that digitizes a coin design, reduces it to the proper size and then transmits the information to a multi-axis robot that cuts the design directly into a steel die.

The older Janvier method takes two to three days to cut the design



**JANVIER LATHE** traces design of larger Kennedy half dollar model in lower photo, reducing the design as it cuts the die in top photo.

image into softer die steel. Although the new technology is capable of shaving significant hours from the time now required, Mint officials report that the resolution of the image cut into the die steel is not as sharp as that produced by the Janvier lathe.

Refinement of the new process to the point of being equal to or surpassing the Janvier lathe is likely just a matter of time, perhaps weeks or months.

For now, we can examine our coins and appreciate the artistic masterpieces they are — even if they are products of a faithful older technology! **GD**

## Collecting habits, laws are factors

### Guest Commentary

**P. Scott Rubin**

is a longtime researcher of auction catalogs and a member of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society Board of Trustees.

T.V. Buttrely in his discussion at the 1999 American Numismatic Association convention in Chicago displayed a chart from his article "False Western American Gold Bars." This chart was his Figure No. 3 on Page 101 of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, published by the American Numismatic Society in 1997.

Buttrely made the point that his chart showed that only a small number (three) new names of assayers appeared for the first time before 1950. What I found interesting about this chart was that it was used as proof that Western gold assay bars mysteriously appeared after 1950.

My question to Buttrely concerned the collecting habits and the laws of the United States about the ownership of gold bars before and after the 1950: After having surveyed well over 6,000 U.S. auction catalogs from 1851 to the present over the last 30 years, I have come to some conclusions about this.

First, gold being an expensive commodity, was not actively collected by American numismatists above the \$10 (eagle) denomination until as late as the 1930s. Second, gold bars were not considered a collectible numismatic item, unless the issuing firm had a connection to the U.S. government, until the 1950s. Third, the laws of ownership of gold bars without a numismatic connection made it illegal for U.S. citizens to own gold bullion until 1974.

While systematic collections of double eagles did not find their way into auctions until the mid-1940s and this seems to be more of a condition of value than of desire to own them.

It appears that by the 1950s a small group of collectors interested in the wide range of Western American gold collectibles made an effort to obtain them by visiting non-numismatic activities, such as gun shows, where these bars could be bought through private transactions.

In most cases it appears that those owning the bars were aware that federal law forbid them to sell or even own the bars. This law had been in effect since 1933. By the 1960s, the government started issuing certificates of ownership to numismatists wishing to legally own bars not directly connected with the Western mints.

While there were a few occasions of gold bars without Mint connections sold before 1950, there were a number of high silver content bars sold during this time. High gold content bars were commonly produced to be converted into coinage. Silver bars seemed to be used for commerce in many cases.

The use of metal detectors by the 1960s seems also to have been a boon for the discovery of hence unknown gold and silver bars.

Another problem with Buttrely's arguments was the use of B. Max Mehl as the one coin dealer with the highest percentage of sales containing Western American gold. While Mehl handled more than 100 sales, Thomas Elder held almost 300 sales. While Mehl seemed not to sell Western American bars at auction, this is to ignore his own collecting interests and his sales practices. Mehl collected Western American bars, not unusual since Mehl's home was in Texas. Mehl in many cases owned the collections he sold at his mail bid sales, which all of his sales were. That meant that he had the option of keeping any items he had a personal interest in rather than offering them for sale. Elder, on the other hand, was from New York (originally Pittsburgh), and his sales were public auction sales with items from many consignors per sale.

It does not appear that Elder had any personal interest in Western American bars, even though he sold a number, certainly more than Mehl in his sales. **GD**

9/30/98 I telephoned John Dannenbush in Memphis. He told me he had been at Long Beach for the show and saw beautiful colored pictures of the two items. I asked him to find out about from Don Kagin, the \$200 USAOG bar in the Bk of Calif Collection and the \$50 octagonal USAOG with the #20 design.

He reported that the examination of the pictures showed the identical dent on the branch in the eagle's claw as exists on all the Franklin hoard pieces. I asked if he could get pictures for ~~us~~ + he said he would try. He also reported that the \$50 piece had a slightly rough surface from die rust.

The branch dent has not been found on any other \$20 USAOG pieces so far as I know other than the Franklin hoard, the \$200 bar and the octagonal \$20 design on the \$50 piece.

epd

AH<sub>&</sub>H

August 23, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Eric,

It was good to hear from you and I look forward to reading a copy of your new book.

Regarding the Buttrey monograph let me cite just two statements he makes. The first occurs on page 102 following his analysis of the Mehl catalogs: "Mehl is a good example, but you can check the catalogues of any dealer you like and the results will be the same." This statement is palpably false—I found a half dozen lots of western bars (Elder, Woodward) in the simplest of reviews. Either Mr. Buttrey did not look or he did look and omitted contrary evidence. Either way, the statement is an insult to honest research.

On page 99, Mr. Buttrey opines: "Because the documentation is so poor there is almost no literature bearing directly on the western bars." This statement is outrageous—Mr. Hodder found mountains of documentation not to mention an author who is soon to publish an entire book devoted to the subject. Another insult to honest research.

Both statements are so blunt that they cry out for editorial verification. How in the name of heavens could some number of presumably intelligent reviewers at the AJN have walked by these obvious red flags?

I mention these points because you have great influence at the A.N.S., enough to give the AJN's editorial process the thorough vetting it seems to require. Regardless of the merits of the argument, Buttrey's monograph is sophomoric in terms of its depth and should never have seen the light of day. That such grave accusations should be published on such a shallow foundation has done harm to the institution.

I wish you a delightful trip to Laos. There seems to be no end to your curiosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized, circular flourish with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John W. Adams

8/23/95

Dear Eric,

I hope that the pictures arrived and are at least satisfactory. As I wrote, I was not at all pleased with the photos of the dime, but I hope that they can be of some use with enlargement.

I will get the remaining material returned to you this week. As for the idea of reprinting your Fugio plates through C4, I do not feel that there would be any negative impact on my project. I do not feel that they should be updated or changed as my work will deal with that. Most collectors have never seen a decent rendition of the plates and I feel that the demand will be substantial. I feel that this would be a great project for the upcoming convention and many in the organization have concurred. Let me know what you think. I'll hang on to the negatives until I hear from you and then either return them to you or send them on to Dennis Weirzba.

This last subject is most difficult for me and I hope that you do not take my thoughts on it negatively. I'm getting lots of comments on your talk at the ANA convention and, I fear, they deal exclusively with the messenger and not at all with the message. The comments are best summed up by my dear friend, and one of the nicest people I know, Don Valenziano, who wrote, "I attended the Chicago Coin Club meeting at ANA to hear Eric Newman's talk. The vile and venom literally dripped from Mr. Newman's remarks. The only thing that his talk proved is that he hates Dr. Sheldon. I only wonder what Eric's enemies will say about him twenty years after his demise."

Personally, I don't give a damn about any stupid large cents. I also could care even less about Dr. Sheldon's 'reputation'. He was a bigoted, anti-Semitic racist. But, I worry, have the emotions of this matter taken over from reason and given way to a 'we have to destroy the village in order to save it' mindset? I'm beginning to see this as both sides continually escalate the rhetoric, the stakes, the level of involvement, and, ultimately, the destructive capacity of the conflict. At some point the ends, which seemed so noble at the outset, become blurred memories as the means escalate, overwhelming the participants. My greatest fears are becoming reality.

If the disputed coins were today to reside in the ANS they would raise the overall level of their holding as much as spitting in the ocean would raise its level. On the other hand, the cancer of enmity that has invaded the hobby will last at least a generation. Each side blaming the other merely serves to give impetus to this destructive cancer.

My own opinions about the affair were published in Penny-Wise and remain unchanged. They are, for the most part, irrelevant. However, I feel that I do have a perspective that most others lack. When we were viewing your coins in the vault you handed me a plate with Higley coppers and commented on how they (Higleys) had sometimes been 'switched'. The reference was, of course, obvious. I don't know of an affair, the explanation of which seemed more 'obvious' than the one to which you alluded. Someone who had previously stolen coins was present, viewed the material, and weeks later offered for sale a piece that had been stolen from the collection. What more could be obvious? One wouldn't, by all accounts, have to look any further. I, alone, by dint of having seen the material before anyone ever touched it, was faced with the reality that what was most 'obvious' was, in fact, an illusion. What may, or may not, have occurred a half century ago at the ANS is far less clear and no matter how sure we may be about our beliefs, whatever they may be, entirely plausible opposing theories can be constructed.

Against this backdrop, to the question 'did Sheldon switch the coins?' my answer is that probably he did. But, I submit, even if we had been present and knew for certain that he did, does the end goal of returning them now outweigh the destruction, in all its hideous manifestations, that has been wrought in achieving that goal. That is the one question that I can answer without a scintilla of doubt, and that answer is NO!

Best~

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and flourishes, likely representing the initials 'RB'.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Rob Retz

August 30, 1999

Dear Rob:

As to your August 23, 1999 letter my answer is in parts due to several subjects being included.

I appreciate very much your willingness to report your frank feelings and the feelings of others as to the ANS one cent matters including comment concerning the talk I gave during the Chicago ANA at the meeting of the Chicago Coin Club. I was asked by that club to talk on an exciting numismatic experience and I believe you will agree that I did what was requested.

I would not wish on anyone the responsibility to participate in a mess like the Sheldon matter. I was asked to do it and as a member of the ANS Council I felt that I had a fiduciary duty. I knew it might be difficult and complex. ANS being the original victim did what it could to be as fair as possible. ANS did not start the long litigation as suit was filed against ANS. (See Coin World correction on August 23, 1999, p. 105). ANS wanted to compromise from the beginning.

I fully understand most of the feelings of innocent people. I do not "hate" Sheldon. I simply regret Sheldon's action and its effect on others, including ANS, collectors, dealers, etc., including their losses, their disappointments, their frustrations and turmoil. It put many in a very difficult position to learn that they might have stolen material in their hands. After Sheldon committed his thefts he attempted to cover them up by creating false pedigrees, showing no respect for the numismatic community in the future.

Naturally dealers are bothered by extra problems created for them because of stolen coins still at large. At my talk before the Chicago Coin Club a collector and researcher exposed his feelings that ANS had let its attorneys go too far and questioned the ANS position of withdrawing the exchange of the substituted coin for the return of the stolen coin. The staff time for ANS people and the expense of the ANS actions on account of the theft were enormous.

I am fortunate that my "enemies" say what they say about me now. I do not have to wait for what may be said 20 years after my demise as was indicated as to Sheldon in your letter. My "enemies" may even change their minds. My friends may also change their minds. I understand their point of view, and I prefer logic rather than emotion and must recognize conflict of interest wherever it may exist. I feel I must call a spade a spade as to facts.

You raise the point that even if ANS got back all the coins stolen it would be minuscule as to its holdings. How would you like to be an ANS donor and have ANS take little responsibility to recover what you gave. ANS would get severe criticism from some people that ANS failed to do its duty. The public is entitled to enjoy and study the holdings of a museum now and into the future, and any other position is unjustifiable.

You point out that plausible opposing theories can be constructed. Do you feel ANS did not investigate this? ANS concluded and the Court concluded that Sheldon was a thief after a study of an enormous quantity of evidence. It was a body of hard facts, not speculation. Hypothetical theories are not realistic when facts show otherwise.

If those who have or had stolen coins had exchanged them for substituted pieces in the years when that opportunity was available that would have been a reasonable compromise; no lawyers' expense, no litigation and no more trouble. Only a few did that. Some may have felt that ANS could not prove its ownership, and that was a risk that they deliberately took. Some might have returned the stolen coins to the source from which they obtained them, but a rise in value could have influenced the situation.

Please feel free to comment further and to have others do the same. I admire so much your willingness to forward views which may be contrary to mine. You have been unusually helpful and my thinking changes when new facts come to light. None of us know all the answers. Put yourself in my position if you have the nerve to do so, but don't lose any sleep.

Numismatics is great nevertheless.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, sweeping flourish.

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: John M. Kleeberg

September 7, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

Re: Counterfeit Moffat & Co. bars.

On page 411 of the June 1940 Numismatist the genuine bar is described with " the lower part is incused with the figure 16.00 \*\*\* ". Is this correct as it looks like raised numerals to me ?

In addition it appears that the genuine counterstamp is made in one piece of 3 lines and the counterfeit counterstamps are 3 separate punches and not well aligned when used.

Please comment as I have no original to examine.

*In communication.*

*Three panels are actually one stamp on genuine.*

*The 16.00 is incused but is stamped in after its frame was punched, thus enabling the amount to be changed. The vertical striations in the top and bottom panels are in the counterstamp and entirely omitted in the counterfeit.*

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

John W. Adams  
Adams, Harkness & Hill Inc.  
60 State St., Floor  
Boston, MA 02109

September 7, 1999

Dear John:

I have begun to study your new book on George III Indian Peace Medals. The clarity of expression matches the clarity of the type. I like its well coordinated historical and numismatic significance.

I also received your August 31, 1999 letter commenting on the Buttrey monograph.

As I told you in our conversation before you wrote it the Buttrey citations to the two volumes you wrote on U.S. numismatic auction catalogs indicates how important your detailed work on such sales is.

I realize that you did not attend the Chicago "debate" and that may have been a wise happenstance.

As to the Buttrey monograph you point out your disappointment at statements made on page 102 but you did not mention footnote 19 on page 99. These might have been better interlocked.

You refer to Buttrey's opinion on page 99 and that Hodder's research and a book soon to be published contradict that opinion. Hodder's research will soon be published by ANS and hopefully the new book by the mining engineer will be completed and published. Perhaps the situation can be better evaluated after readers can digest information after it is published.

By all means keep analyzing and thinking about the matter.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman



August 23, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Eric,

It was good to hear from you and I look forward to reading a copy of your new book.

Regarding the Buttrey monograph let me cite just two statements he makes. The first occurs on page 102 following his analysis of the Mehl catalogs: "Mehl is a good example, but you can check the catalogues of any dealer you like and the results will be the same." This statement is palpably false—I found a half dozen lots of western bars (Elder, Woodward) in the simplest of reviews. Either Mr. Buttrey did not look or he did look and omitted contrary evidence. Either way, the statement is an insult to honest research.

On page 99, Mr. Buttrey opines: "Because the documentation is so poor there is almost no literature bearing directly on the western bars." This statement is outrageous—Mr. Hodder found mountains of documentation not to mention an author who is soon to publish an entire book devoted to the subject. Another insult to honest research.

Both statements are so blunt that they cry out for editorial verification. How in the name of heavens could some number of presumably intelligent reviewers at the AJN have walked by these obvious red flags?

I mention these points because you have great influence at the A.N.S., enough to give the AJN's editorial process the thorough vetting it seems to require. Regardless of the merits of the argument, Buttrey's monograph is sophomoric in terms of its depth and should never have seen the light of day. That such grave accusations should be published on such a shallow foundation has done harm to the institution.

I wish you a delightful trip to Laos. There seems to be no end to your curiosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John W. Adams', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

John W. Adams

## PIONEER AUCTION RESULTS & ACTIVITY 1997

The year started with the Fun show in Florida. On the bourse floor the remaining dealers stock of Eliasberg Pioneer gold coins found willing clients. Fractional gold did well in the Heritage Auction. The Long Beach, Cleveland, Indianapolis, and Chicago Super Show saw major pioneer rarities change hands. Private Treaty Sales included the Morman \$20, the 1860 Clark Gruber \$20, Moffat 16.00 Ingot and the very rare Wass Molitor Large Head \$20.

The Bowers and Merena May 30-31 auction saw a 1860 Clark Gruber \$10 copper pattern sell for \$3740. In the June 3 Spink Auction the Parsons & Co. Quarter Eagle Pattern changed hands for \$11,000. At the same time Superior auctioned a large Fractional Gold collection and several nice Pioneer Gold pieces. The Majority of the Fractional Gold went to major dealers with several collectors purchasing selective pieces. Prices were mixed for Fractional gold compared to the strong prices realized at the last Superior Auction. Auction prices continued to remain strong for all Pioneer Gold.

The June 11 Stack Sale featured the Schoonmaker Collection of Western Numismatic Americana. Fred Schoonmaker was one of the few collectors to ever assemble a complete set of Clark Gruber coinage in gold. Some strong prices went to book with mixed results on the remaining items.

|         |                 |                              |      |         |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------------|------|---------|
| Lot 992 | \$50            | Humbert K2                   | Unc  | 35,000+ |
| 994     | \$50            | Assay K14                    | Unc  | 23,000+ |
| 996     | \$16.00         | Moffat K3                    |      | 18,000+ |
| 1005    | \$20            | Clark Gruber 1860            | VF   | 57,000+ |
| → 1011  | Nagy Die Trials | Humbert                      |      | 5,250+  |
| → 1019  | \$5             | Mass. & Calif.               | Gilt | 2,000+  |
| → 1020  | \$10            | Moran & Clark                | Gilt | 4,750+  |
| → 1021  | \$5             | Pacific Co.                  | Gilt | 8,000+  |
| → 1026  | Ingot           | U.S. A.O.G. Assay Gold Ingot |      | 50,000+ |
| 1027    | Ingot           | Brother Jonathan Gold Ingot  |      | 30,000+ |
| 1030    | Ingot           | Rogers & Brown Gold Ingot    |      | 8,000+  |
| 1031    | Ingot           | Gould & Curry Mixed Metal    |      | 9,250+  |

+ means 10% Buyers fee needs to be added

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105*

To: John M. Kleeberg

September 7, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

Re: Counterfeit Moffat & Co. bars.

On page 411 of the June 1940 Numismatist the genuine bar is described with " the lower part is incused with the figure 16.00 \*\*\* ". Is this correct as it looks like raised numerals to me ?

In addition it appears that the genuine counterstamp is made in one piece of 3 lines and the counterfeit counterstamps are 3 separate punches and not well alligned when used.

Please comment as I have no original to examine.



Phone 212/693-3130  
Fax 212/694-3381  
E-mail: info@AmNumSoc.Org

## THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

BROADWAY AT 155<sup>TH</sup> STREET

NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

September 10, 1999

Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

On genuine Moffat bars, the 16.00 is incused, not raised. If you will look carefully at the photocopy, you should see that MOFFAT, which is raised, is lit up on the left sides of the letters and in shadow on the right sides. 16.00 and 20 3/4 CARAT, which is incused, is in shadow on the left sides of the letters and lit up on the right sides of the letters.

The genuine Moffat bars are first made with one punch of three lines; you can see where the three parts are joined in a line on the right in the Numismatist article; this joining line appears on the left in the photograph in Breen's Encyclopedia. The punch read MOFFAT & CO/ [blank line] / \$; the name MOFFAT & Co and the dollar sign were against a background of vertical lines. Then 16.00 and 20 3/4 were punched in individually, and the term CARAT was punched in using a logotype. The fake Moffat bar punched in the upper and lower parts separately: one punch reading Moffat and another punch reading \$. These are often misaligned on the fake.

Now that I re-read your letter, I see that you came to this conclusion too. Great minds think alike.

All the best,

  
John Kleeberg



MS. UTE WARRIOR

To CW

August 28, 1999

**SUBJECT: WESTERN ASSAY GOLD BARS**

Letter to the Editor:

I have followed with interest the recent series of articles on the controversy about the Western gold bars. I must first say that I am not a collector or researcher in gold coins or related numismatic material. Nevertheless, the headlines did capture my attention and I have read all your recent articles on the subject. Having my curiosity aroused, I then went back and read Mr. Buttrely's article in issue #9 of the American Journal of Numismatics (1997). After reading all of these, I must agree with Mr. Hodder in that Mr. Buttrely shows a "great deal ofchutzpah".

Despite my lack of background in gold related numismatics, I do possess a background (and several publications) in medical research where the standards of proof, and the thoroughness and toughness of the peer review process are much harder to overcome than those in numismatics. I have also been involved in numismatic research in the colonial field. With this background, I feel qualified to analyze the quality of evidence presented by Mr. Buttrely. His so-called "evidence" is in my opinion no more than mere speculation tied together with quantum leaps in logic.

Mr. Buttrely's argument is based on the fact that these bars do not have any recorded pedigree prior to 1950. Give me a break! Several important new discoveries have been made in colonial numismatics since 1950 that are totally lacking in pedigree or previous auction appearances. I guess Mr. Buttrely would consider these also to be forgeries based on "Buttrely's principle". Furthermore, Mr. Hodder and Mr. Adams (in a previous editorial) have shown that Mr. Buttrely's search was limited and very selective.

He (Mr. Buttrely) then moves on to present another startling, but inappropriate analogy between these gold bars and some other Mexican gold bars that proved to be false. This analogy is the more surprising in view of Mr. Buttrely's own admission that there is very little similarity between these Mexican bars and the Western bars in question other than they are both made of gold and both surfaced after 1950.

But what really "takes the cake" is Mr. Buttrely's admission that he has never laid eyes on these bars. Yet, he still issues statements like "this gold bar scam", and "criminal fraud".

There is only one way to describe these statements. Slander!

A fair number of people within the colonial field know that Mr. Hodder and I do not always see "eye to eye" on colonial numismatic matters. There may even have been times when we have said things about each other that were less than kind. However, our differences have been based on different interpretations of available evidence. I have always known Mr. Hodder to be thorough in his methods. On the issue of the Western gold bars, I feel he is on the right track. He has done a fairly extensive documentary

search, and has submitted these bars to detailed scientific analysis of composition, which shows them to be consistent with the gold ore mined during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The only conclusions I can draw from Mr. Buttrey's article are:

- 1- Mr. Buttrey appears to have an intense dislike for Mr. Franklin, Mr. Ford, Mr. Stack. He has allowed this dislike to cloud his judgement
- 2- The ANS showed poor judgement by publishing his work, if not for the article itself, at least for allowing him to use the ANS and its publications as a forum to make serious allegations about prominent numismatists without any supporting evidence.

My advice to Mr. Buttrey would be:

- 1- If you, or anyone else behind you in this matter, have any real evidence to call these bars counterfeit, state it now and publicly.
- 2- If you do not, I suggest you keep your mouth shut. Remarks like yours cannot but harm your own reputation. But much worse, you may be talking yourself into a lawsuit for malicious defamation

In closing, I have to agree with Mr. Adams. Mr. Buttrey and the ANS owe an apology to Mr. Franklin, Mr. Ford, Mr. Stack, and Mr. Hodder

Sincerely yours,

Angel O. Pietri, MD

**Angel O. Pietri, M.D., F.A.C.P.**

## FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 8/28/99

To: Coin World

From: Angel Pietri

Pages including cover page: 3

Fax Number

To: Ute Wartenberg

9/8/99

From: CPNNES

Thanks you for sending<sup>us</sup> a copy of the 8/28/99 letter of Dr Angel O. Pietri to the editor of Coin World. If it is published there might be an editor's comment following it, based upon his admission.

Pietri states that "some other Mexican gold bars that proved to be false." It is assumed that Pietri believes that such Mexican gold bars have been proven to be false. Therefore the editor's comment might be:

Perhaps since Pietri believes that some Mexican gold bars have been proven to be false an apology is owed by Mr. Ford, Mr. Stack, Mr. Hodder and others to the numismatic public including Mr. Buttrey and the American Numismatic Society.

## THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE GREEK REPUBLIC

Written by  
Ed Benton for the  
NLG bash  
Eric

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of John Ford.  
They have gazed on Doctor Sheldon's coins when they were being stored.  
They have glimpsed the brouhaha about the latest golden hoard.  
Old feuds go marching on.

Glory, glory, ancient scholars.  
They love Greece and all its squalors.  
Their concern is not with dollars  
Except in a bequest.

When the ANS was founded back in 1858,  
It decided U.S. coinage wasn't worthy of debate.  
After all, it had been issued 1,500 years too late  
By Vandals, Goths and Huns.

Glory, glory, Eric Newman,  
Give 'em hell like Harry Truman.  
Your research is superhuman.  
You even do U.S.

As we stand upon the threshold of millennial advance,  
ANS's old-time members can't afford a backward glance.  
For they're nearing a millennium with mighty new expanse:  
The year 1001.

Glory, glory, Michael Hodder.  
You provide prodigious fodder  
On the curious and odder,  
Including ANS.

As it moves from Mount Olympus to Manhattan's lower end  
ANS has picked a messenger to help the gods descend.  
Ute Wartenberg, we're watching and our ears we gladly lend  
For time is marching on.

Glory clings to Rome and Sparta.  
But the time has come to chart a  
Numismatic Magna Carta: B.C. is now A.D.

## ANS ACHIEVES PARODY WITH ANA

By ED REITER

For years, the American Numismatic Association has been a favorite target of satirists at NLG Bashes. This year, I decided to give equal time to the American Numismatic Society – which, after all, was already sweating under the spotlight ... that is to say, basking in the limelight ... at the rollicking debate over Western assay bars.

Given the classical ambience the ANS has long exuded, it might have been more appropriate to have the number performed by a satyrist, rather than a satirist – but then, I'm getting to be a pretty old goat, so that seemed close enough.

The timing was perfect, for the ANA convention was held this year in Chicago – and the last



time that occurred, in 1991, my Bash song had paid tribute to the ANA, which was then observing its centennial.

To underscore the symmetry, I chose the same song as the vehicle for my parody. With civil war erupting on the debate floor, what could be more appropriate than "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Extending the parallelism still further, I retained the same first line. If anything, it was even more timely in 1999, as you will soon discover. (The 1991 ANA parody was published in a previous edition of

the NLG Newsletter.)

I'm pleased to report that even after sitting through the Bash and witnessing my performance, numerous ANS stalwarts – including Eric Newman and Ute Wartenberg, the society's new executive director – remained on speaking terms with me. In fact, I'm told the parody may be printed in some forthcoming ANS publication – in English, yet! Best of all, I haven't yet been subpoenaed by the New York State Attorney General's Office.

Without further ado, then ... and before legal problems do indeed result in a further adieu ... here's my little ditty. I call it "The Battle Hymn of the Greek Republic."

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of John Ford.  
They have gazed on Doctor Sheldon's coins when they were being stored.  
They have glimpsed the brouhaha about the Western assay hoard.  
Old feuds go marching on.

Glory, glory, ancient scholars. They love Greece and all its squalors.  
Their concern is not with dollars. Except in a bequest.

When the ANS was founded back in 1858, It decided U.S. coinage wasn't worthy of debate.  
After all, it had been issued 1,500 years too late By Vandals, Goths and Huns.

Glory, glory, Eric Newman, Give 'em hell like Harry Truman.  
Your research is superhuman. You even do U.S.

As we stand upon the threshold of millennial advance,  
ANS's old-time members can't afford a backward glance.  
For they're nearing a millennium with mighty new expanse: The year 1001.

Glory, glory, Michael Hodder. You provide prodigious fodder  
On the curious and odder, Including ANS.

As it moves from Mount Olympus to Manhattan's lower end,  
ANS has picked a messenger to help the gods descend.  
Ute Wartenberg, we're watching and our ears we gladly lend,  
For time is marching on.

Glory clings to Rome and Sparta. But the time has come to chart a  
Numismatic Magna Carta: B.C. is now A.D.

An active Episcopal priest, Connell is especially well known to NLG, where his musical talents have enlivened several recent Bashes. Editor Harper presented Connell with the latest Krause Publications Numismatic Ambassador Award, to the enthusiastic applause of his audience.

A few years ago, Connell had written what came to be regarded as the unofficial anthem of the Guild, "In the Good Old NLG." In 1999, he shifted talents, providing instead of song (his guitar still packed after a recent move to New York's Long Island) a dramatic reading of his NLG hit song, "I'm a Coin-Show Junkie."

Continuing a feature introduced some decades ago starting the late Walter Breen, Scott A. Travers took the stage with ANA President Swiatek to present NLG's version of "The Amazing Karnak," in which the psychic Swiatek divined the questions sealed in a succession of envelopes by reading aloud their answers.

The most topical humor was inspired by the morning's spirited debate (ANA's answer to "The Jerry Springer Show"), between Professor Theodore V. Buttrey and researcher Michael J. Hodder, over the authenticity of Western assay bars.

Interlocutor Wolka presented a magnificent spoof on the widely publicized 50-coin statehood quarter program.

"We're proud to bring you, not the winners ('cause everybody knows them) but the exciting, never-before-published list of runner-up themes for each state. Yes, the ones that didn't make it!" The list was long and the humor merciless, sparing neither small states nor large:

RHODE ISLAND: The Teeny-Tiny State

HAWAII: Eat your Heart Out, New York!

KENTUCKY: We're not Arkansas and damn proud of it!

ALASKA: Damn Big, Damn Cold!

ALABAMA: At least we're not Mississippi!

MISSISSIPPI: We Make You Feel Good about YOUR STATE!

OREGON: If you're coming from California, keep moving!

WASHINGTON: If they didn't let you stay in California or Oregon, keep moving!

VIRGINIA: Land of Government Lawyers.

WEST VIRGINIA: Who needs teeth?

WISCONSIN: Eat Cheese out morticus (Eat Cheese or Die)

IDAHO: A potato a day lands you in the hospital.

ILLINOIS: (Two figures back-to-back) Site of the Buttrey-Hodder Debate.

INDIANA: Thank God we have Purdue!

NEBRASKA: Corn Fields! It may be boring, but we like it!

NORTH DAKOTA: (Under a view of a tundra in a July blizzard) WHY not MINOT?

SOUTH DAKOTA: Riviera of the Dakotas.

Punctuating the program at intervals were "Millennium

*Cont. on page 10*

## NLG NEWSLETTER

Since 1968, the official  
publication of the  
Numismatic  
Literary Guild, Inc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
ED REITER

TEL. [REDACTED]  
FAX [REDACTED]

ELECTED DIRECTORS:  
TOM DE LOREY  
PAUL GILKES  
R. W. JULIAN  
MARGO RUSSELL  
BOB VAN RYZIN

TREASURER:  
KAY EDGERTON LENKER

EDITOR  
DAVID T. ALEXANDER

PO BOX 780  
MAHOPAC, NY 10541  
TEL: DAYS 212-582-2580  
EVE: BEFORE 10 PM  
914-628-7535